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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

TOPIC Military Information from Wuensdorf-Zossen

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DATE OF CONTENT

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REMARKS

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1. On 11 January 1952, Camp Zossen at Wuensdorf (N 53/Z 91) was occupied by about 3,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with motor transport insignia. About 40 percent of the camp quarters were lighted during the evening hours. Many troops were seen moving about in the billeting area, but no training or other routine activity was noticed.

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2. A Soviet officer said that the Soviet komendatura was located in one of the three apartment houses on the west side of the Zossen-Wuensdorf road, just northwest of Camp Zossen. Two twin-axle, armored vehicles were seen almost daily parking in front of the komendatura. The vehicles had open-topped bodies and mounted no weapons.

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3. Traffic MPs were no longer seen in the Zossen-Wuensdorf area after 29 December 1951. The troop movements observed during the preceding days had apparently come to an end. A train seen at the Zossen railroad station on 24 December, with the engine pointed toward Wuensdorf, carried 15 trucks.

(3) A motor column parked on the road from Mellensee to Saalow, southwest of Zossen, on 4 January 1952. The vehicles were faced toward Saalow carrying about 15 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, and 4 prime movers, each carrying 6 soldiers and towing an AT gun of about 76 mm.

(4)

4. On 11 January 1952, the Panzertruppen Schule, Wuensdorf, which is located at the intersection of Highway No 96 and Zehrendorferstrasse, seemed to be occupied to capacity by a unit of soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets, most of which had tank insignia. Daily training observed during the days preceding 11 January involved about 150 unarmed soldiers receiving close-order drill at the squad level. Other troops practiced with tanks of various types, including P-34s. A military band of about 40 men was quartered in one of the barracks buildings, and a total of about 300 uniformed women were observed in the billeting area. The process of moving furniture into the

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25X1 buildings of the Panzertruppen Schule apparently ended on 4 January. Building [ ] in the billeting area housed a workshop which assembled 750-cubic centimeter BMW motors for motorcycles and 6-cylinder engines for trucks. A newly constructed track connected the workshop with the Wuensdorf railroad station. It was said that 9 other workshops of this type would be equipped with machine tools and put into operation. A laborer employed in building No 25X1 [ ] said that for an undetermined number of days after 9 November 1951, the workshop received a daily average of 7 boxcarloads of lathes, milling machines, grinding machines and grinders, which arrived at the Wuensdorf railroad station and were hauled to the Panzertruppen Schule by about 8 trucks, 25X1 [ ] An ammunition dump in the northern section of the billeting area of the Panzertruppen Schule contained about 8 piles of ammunition. Each pile measured 8 x 1.6 x 1.2 meters. The dump was 25X1 surrounded by a barbed wire fence and guarded by sentries. 25X1 [ ]

5. On 11 January 1952, the Lutz Kaserne on the east side of Highway No 96 quartered about 1,200 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Lights appeared from 80 to 90 percent of the installation during the evening hours. Several trucks, a few soldiers, but no training activity whatever, were noticed in the barracks yard. A local resident said that a train with tanks was unloaded at the Wuensdorf railroad station on 28 December 1951, and a train with light field howitzers and heavy AA guns on 19 December. The tanks and the field howitzers were hauled to the Lutz Kaserne. (7)
6. Sunken emplacements for four heavy AA guns were seen in a brushwood-covered area west of the Lutz Kaserne and west of the Wuensdorf-Zossen railroad line on 30 December 1951. Three wooden crew shelters were noticed at the emplacements.
7. Six 85-mm AA guns were observed being moved into emplacements in a brushwood-covered area about 500 meters northwest of the Wuensdorf railroad station during the night of 31 December 1951. One wooden observation tower, about 8 meters high, was erected for every three AA guns. Two groups of 6 other 85-mm AA guns were moved into emplacements in the area north of the Lutz Kaserne and west of the Panzertruppen Schule respectively during the same night. Local residents said that still other AA guns were emplaced east of the Panzertruppen Schule. Troops were seen practicing with the AA guns emplaced northwest of the Wuensdorf railroad station on 13 January 1952. (8)
8. Five boxcars with 9 lathes arrived at the Wuensdorf railroad station on 7 January 1952; 5 boxcars with 10 lathes, on 9 January; and a freight train with 9 large machines resting on special cars and 1 railroad crane, on 13 January. The machines were transloaded on flatbed trailers and hauled off toward Zehrendorferstrasse. Most of the machinery came from Magdeburg-Buckau (II 53/D 69). The construction of the railroad spur from the Wuensdorf railroad station to the Panzertruppen Schule was almost completed by 11 January. The laborers engaged in the construction work were restricted to their quarters in the Panzertruppen Schule and were said to have come from Aue. (5)
9. About 35 officer candidates wearing black-bordered red epaulets and carrying carbines with 10-round clip magazines were seen marching out of the Hindenburg Kaserne on Highway No 96 on 13 January. [ ]

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10. The Panzertruppen Schule at the intersection of Highway No 96 and Zehrendorferstrasse has been occupied since the end of December 1951. The majority of its windows was lighted during the evening hours on 10 January 1952. A total of about 80 officers ranking from junior lieutenant up to and including captain and wearing tank and artillery insignia was seen walking in small groups from the Lutz Kaserne to Panzertruppen Schule at about 3 p.m. on 10 January. There was little vehicular traffic at the installation.

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- (1) Comments.  
The estimate of about 3,000 troops in Camp Zossen is reported for the first time and is in the range of possibility. The units there are believed to include an AT artillery unit and a motor transport unit of the GOCG.

- (2)  
(3)  
(4)

- (5) The buildings pertaining to the Panzertruppen Schule are indicated on a sketch attached to [redacted]. The present report and information received since the movement of the Hq Third Gds Mecz Army to Wuensdorf indicate that the Panzertruppen Schule houses the command echelon of the army headquarters in buildings Nos [redacted] an unidentified army headquarters unit with tanks, possibly the 50th Mtrcl Regt from the Stalags at Luckenwalde; and a tank and vehicle repair shop in the section of the billeting area around workshop building [redacted]. The machinery, which according to paragraph 8 of the present report, allegedly came from Magdeburg-Buckau is believed to have been manufactured by, rather than dismantled from, the plants there. Compare with [redacted] Comment (9).

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- 25X1 (6) [ ] confirms the officers' school of the COFC in Wuensdorf up to 19 December 1951. The information contained in paragraph 9 of the present report is also indicative of this school in the Hindenburg Kaserne. See
- 25X1 (7) [ ] The increase in the number of troops in the Lutz Kaserne is probably connected with the arrival of army headquarters troops who possibly came in aboard the trains on 19 and 28 December 1951.
- (8) The report mentions for the first time that AA guns were moved into emplacements and thus confirms the movement of the Hq Third Gds Mecz Army. The AA gun emplacements on Gottowerstrasse, Luckenwalde, were reported [ ] 25X1 [ ] to have been vacated by 25 December 1951. It is doubted that there are batteries of six 85-mm AA guns. There either were only four guns, or the group of six guns constitutes a light battery.
- 25X1 (9) [ ] belongs to the motor vehicle repair shop in Kirchmoeser which has 25X1 been known [ ] since March 1951. However, a report on rail movements for the first time mentions [ ] in connection with an installation in Wuensdorf which received a shipment of tanks in December 1951. In view of the apparently new, heavy machinery which, according to paragraph 8 of the present report, was delivered from Magdeburg, it is possible that the motor vehicle repair shop from Kirchmoeser may have been moved to Wuensdorf. Together with the tank repair shop from Kammersdorf which seems to have been also moved to Wuensdorf, it may be expanded into a large tank repair shop. A previous report [ ] said that the repair shop concerned publicly announced vacancies for 500 workmen who must be construction workers. It appears unusual that an army headquarters and a large rear service installation should be housed in one military billeting area.

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